

before the annual meeting of the Northern California Public Health Association, by Michael Goodman, associate professor of architecture on the Berkeley campus of the University of California. Speaking at the evening session November 16, his talk was based on a collaborative investigation conducted by the department of architecture and the school of public health under the direction of Professor Goodman and Mrs. S. P. Lucia, associate professor of biometry. Drawings made by students of architecture were used to illustrate the lecture.

Joint speaker of the evening was Colonel Alexander Heron of the State Reconstruction and Reemployment Committee, who told about the State program of postwar building and public projects.

Christian Science Practitioner Signatures to Sick Leave Forms.—The *San Francisco Municipal Review*, November 16, states: "At the request of Commissioner Allan E. Charles the annual sick leave ordinance is being amended to permit the signature of a Christian Science practitioner on sick leave forms. Currently the Civil Service Commission recognizes only the signature of a Doctor of Medicine on the sick leave forms."

Press Clippings.—Some news items from the daily press on matters related to medical practice follow:

President Truman's New Health Plan Before A.M.A.
Acting Surgeon General of V. A. Protests Government Medical Control

Chicago, Dec. 4.—(UP.)—American Medical Association delegates, representing more than 125,000 physicians, met today to answer President Truman's proposal of a national health program.

More than 40 resolutions, many of them voicing the medical profession's opposition to the President's request for universal sickness insurance and health care were scheduled for consideration.

Maj. Gen. Paul R. Hawley, acting surgeon general, of Veterans' Administration, told A.M.A. delegates last night that a "free and uncontrolled medicine will solve its own problems and doesn't need the Government to tell it how."

He made no direct reference to Mr. Truman's proposal but emphasized that he did not approve of Government interference in the medical field.

"No Federal Control"

"Although I've been in Government service for thirty years, I don't want to see the Government control medicine throughout the country," he said.

General Hawley, medical director of the Veterans' Administration, said the V.A. had done an unprecedented job in treating thousands of veterans with an inadequate number of doctors, but he added that private physicians would have to participate to make the veterans program successful.

General Hawley disclosed that a program would enable doctors to offer their services on a part-time basis in veterans' hospitals, receiving standard fees from the Veterans' Administration.

The incoming president, Dr. Roger I. Lee, Boston, who was inaugurated last night, stressed the need for "constant and continuing" study to determine what constitutes "adequate" medical care.

He said that "while there have been many clarion shouts that medical care in the United States is inadequate," these claims too often failed to include the individual's attitude toward treatment by physicians.—*San Francisco News*, December 4.

A.M.A. Unanimously Opposes Truman's New Health Program*

Chicago, Dec. 4.—(INS.)—The American Medical Association today unanimously disapproved President Truman's plan for Federal tax supported health insurance.

The A.M.A. House of Delegates indorsed a statement describing the Truman plan as "socialized medicine" that would put the physician and his patient under political control and make doctors "clock watchers and slaves of a system."

The delegates adopted that part of the President's plan

covered by the Hill-Burton bill, which provides for Federal aid for the construction of hospitals and health centers.

Also adopted was the point asking for the development of a national research foundation, as introduced in the Magnusen bill. The delegates, in approving that point, specified that the foundation should be headed by a board of scientists, rather than a presidentially appointed individual, as suggested in the Kilgore bill.

Points referred back to committee were on compensation for loss of earnings due to sickness, and the extension of maternal and child health services, which the Wagner-Murray-Dingell bill would make effective by increased grants through the children's bureau to various states.

A resolution of the California delegation that no employee of the A.M.A. be permitted to have any other source of income was defeated, and two other resolutions of that delegation were referred back to committee.—*San Francisco Examiner*, December 5.

Hotel Del Monte Reported Sold As Naval Academy

Washington, Nov. 13.—California's fashionable 1,500 room Hotel Del Monte near Monterey, one of the West's most famous luxury hotels, has been secretly taken under option by the Navy Department, according to information today in the hands of Representative Gordon L. McDonough.

The California Congressman said he has been informed Del Monte will be used as the site of a naval academy postgraduate school. . . .—*San Francisco Call-Bulletin*, November 13.

Science Finds New Elements

Chicago, Nov. 16.—(INS.)—Dr. Glenn T. Seaborg, University of California chemist, today announced the discovery of two new elements in addition to plutonium, used in atomic bomb manufacture.

The two elements, as yet unnamed, are numbers 95 and 96 on the periodic table of known elements. They possess properties that are of the "rare-earth-like" series which starts with element 89, actinium, Dr. Seaborg said.

The new elements were found as a result of bombarding uranium 238 and plutonium 239 with high energy helium elements of 40 million electron volts.

Dr. Seaborg was co-discoverer of the new elements and of neptunium 237, a more stable twin of neptunium, element 93. He also was co-discoverer of plutonium, in 1940.

He said that plutonium, which he isolated in a University of Chicago laboratory, has been found to exist in minute amounts in a natural state.—*San Francisco Examiner*, November 17.

Atomic Bombs at Low Cost Predicted by Dr. Oppenheimer

Philadelphia, Nov. 16.—(AP.)—Atomic bombs cheap enough so that tens of thousands of them may be dropped in the next war were predicted today by Dr. J. Robert Oppenheimer, the former University of California scientist who headed the making of atomic bombs at Los Alamos, N. M.

Doctor Oppenheimer (now on the faculty of the California Institute of Technology) spoke at the first postwar Atomic Energy Conference held jointly by the American Philosophical Society and the National Academy of Sciences.

"We have made a thing," said Doctor Oppenheimer, "that has altered abruptly and profoundly the nature of the world.

"The atomic bomb is a very ordinary thing in some ways but—in a world of atomic weapons wars will cease.

"Because it is known the project cost us two billion dollars, and we dropped just two bombs, it is easy to think they must be expensive. But for any serious undertaking in atomic armament—and without any elements of technical novelty whatever, just doing things that have already been done, that estimate of cost would be high by something like a factor of one thousand. Atomic weapons, even with what we know today, can be cheap."

He said that except for the protecting hills the second bomb at Nagasaki would have "taken out" ten square miles or a little more. Great steel girders of factories were twisted and wrecked, he declared, and some of these wrecked factories were miles apart.

New medical discoveries from the atomic bomb were reported by Dr. Robert S. Stone, University of California. They were made in studying the rays emitted by thirty common chemical elements which are transformed into substances like radium.

* For editorial and other comment, see pp. 209-264, 298-304, and 309.

Beta rays, streams of electrons, were produced so powerful that a single overexposure of this radiation caused skin cancer in animals. These rays have long been known to cause cancer, but never in a single shot.

Some of the radioactive by-products, he said, if absorbed into the body, will cause sarcoma (cancer) of the bone. Plutonium, the new metal that makes bombs, is just as dangerous as radium if taken into the human body.—San Francisco *Examiner*, November 17.

Medics Urging Federal Support for Science Research Program

Washington.—(UP.)—Three medical scientists agreed today that the Federal Government should set up a science research foundation but urged that member scientists be free of unnecessary governmental restrictions.

One of the scientists, Dr. E. M. Macewon, dean of the Iowa University Medical college, told the joint Senate commerce and military affairs subcommittee that "the only defense against future wars will be scientific and industrial supremacy."

Dr. Macewon also told the committee, which is studying bills to create a national science foundation, that the Allies won the war "because time and the blunders of a paperhanger gave our scientists an opportunity to develop more accurate and destructive weapons. . . ."

"Next time we will have neither of these; science will strike when ready and perhaps without warning," he said. "A generation or less ago preparedness was expressed in an international armament race. Tomorrow it will be a race for scientific supremacy."

Dr. A. N. Richards, chairman of the committee on medical research of the Office of Scientific Research and Development, declared that "if we do not wish to go scientifically bankrupt," scientists must be allowed to abandon the regimentation necessary during war.

"We must see to it that our (scientific) investigators return to their more deliberate habit; that they cease to be bedeviled by such requirements as that of bimonthly reports to an authority in Washington."—Merced *Sun-Star*, October 23.

British Medical Plan Is Scored

London, Nov. 12.—(INS.)—The *Daily Sketch* said today a Labor government bill bringing British hospitals under state control and specifying the areas in which physicians may practice will be introduced in parliament.

The newspaper said the bill was prepared without prior consultation with hospitals, local authorities or members of the medical profession.

The proposal, which exempts certain medical specialists, would restrict a family's choice of physicians to those in the immediate area and forbid the buying and selling of medical practices.

"Feudalism at its worst never indulged in such tyrannical folly as this," the newspaper declared.—Modesto *Bee*, November 12.

Dr. A. J. J. Rourke Named to Hospital Group

Dr. Anthony J. J. Rourke, physician superintendent of Stanford University Hospitals, has been appointed a member of the Council of Administrative Practice, it was announced yesterday by the American Hospital Association.

At the same time the Association announced the appointment of William P. Butler, manager of San Jose Hospital, as chairman of the Council on Association Relations.—San Francisco *Examiner*, November 19.

Heart Disease Research Set

New York, Nov. 1.—The life insurance industry announced today establishment of a \$3,500,000 fund for a six-year medical research in the United States and Canada.

M. Albert Linton, chairman of the joint committee of the American Life Convention and the Life Insurance Association of America, said 143 insurance companies had pledged support of the program.

The first goal will be research into what was called the "No. 1 killer"—heart and arterial disease, causing roughly 30 per cent of all deaths annually.—San Francisco *News*, November 1.

Chiropractors and a Four Year Course

Sacramento, Nov. 20.—(AP.)—Directors of the California Chiropractic Association have adopted an educational requirement of a four-year course of study, Dr. Raymond L. Parker, chairman of the Association's legislative council, said today.—San Francisco *Chronicle*, November 21.

California Doctors Back Pre-Pay Plan

Chicago, Dec. 2.—The medical profession must take the lead in building up national health or "surrender the responsibility to those in whose hands we would not like to see it placed," Joseph H. Howard, Bridgeport, Conn., and Dr. Philip K. Gilman, San Anselmo, President of the California Medical Association, told the first annual conference of presidents and other officers of State Medical Societies today.

Condemning President Truman's proposed system of health insurance, Dr. Gilman said, however, that, "after the President's statement there is no longer any room for doubt about the necessity or wisdom of providing prepayment systems for meeting medical care costs."

"We must do something about it," he declared. "Today we (the medical profession) are forced to do something—something aggressive."

Both doctors concurred that "a need exists for better provision for building the national health" but insisted the better way of accomplishing this was through voluntary systems with participants having free choice of doctors and services.

Dr. Howard suggested that "the development of voluntary medical care program and the experience under these various programs can be consolidated to offer the right answer to the compulsory medical care program as advocated by President Truman."

The conference adopted a resolution calling for state-wide health programs based on free choice of doctors and urged formation of a Department of Public Health and Medical Welfare with cabinet rank.—San Francisco *News*, December 3.

"Don't Curb Doctors," Says Medical Chief

Chicago, Dec. 3.—(UP.)—Major General Paul R. Hawley, medical director of the Veterans' Administration and Acting Surgeon General, tonight denounced any type of Government control of medicine, asserting the medical field "doesn't need the Government to tell it how" to solve its problems.

Hawley told the House of Delegates of the American Medical Association, now in session here, that "free and uncontrolled medicine will solve its own problems."

Hawley, who recently threatened to quit as Acting Surgeon General unless Congress approves General Omar Bradley's plan for veterans' hospitals, made no direct reference in his address to President Truman's universal medical care program. But he stated strongly he did not approve of any Government interference in the medical field.

V. A.'s Problem

He said the Veterans' Administration has an unprecedented job of treating thousands of veterans with an inadequate number of doctors.

He said private physicians would have to participate on a part time basis in veterans' hospitals and in private practice, receiving standard fees from the Veterans' Administration.

Earlier Dr. Herman L. Kretschmer of Chicago, retiring president, said President Truman's proposed program, if enacted, would constitute the first step toward totalitarianism in this country.

"When will the Legislators, the do-gooders, and others learn that disease cannot be cured by the passage of laws?" he said. "The physicians of this country will never be regimented."

"Un-American"

Dr. Kretschmer also directed the attention of the delegates to difficulties which he said are being placed in the path of returning Army and Navy doctors seeking to resume practice and urged that they be eliminated.

"Most hospital privileges," he said, "are contingent on membership in county medical societies. In some places, returning medical officers have been placed on what amounts to probation for one or two years. This practically closes the doors of hospitals to them, and the practice is unwarranted, unfair and un-American."

A resolution urging that voluntary non-profit state-wide health plans be established at once, with "free choice of purveyors of health care," was adopted at the first annual conference of presidents and other officers of state medical societies, attended by delegates from 37 states.

Also advocated was establishment of a Secretary of Health and Medical Care in the Cabinet, to be selected from practicing physicians, to direct "every Federal bureau and office whose duties are related to health and medical welfare."—San Francisco *News*, December 3.